

REMARKS

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below.

Claims 1-12, 28 and 29 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 29 were rejected over HOEFT et al. 6,551,691 in view of THOMAS 3,650,882. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites first and second patterned glue transfer rolls. The first patterned glue transfer roll transfers glue to a first web, which is then brought into contact with a second web. The second glue transfer roll then transfers glue to a third web that is brought in contact with a glue applied side of the combined first and second webs.

Claim 29 also includes similar recitations to that of claim 1 and further provides that the two glue patterns together form a third glue pattern.

By way of example, Figure 1 of the present application, reproduced below, shows first and second glue transfer stations 5,14.

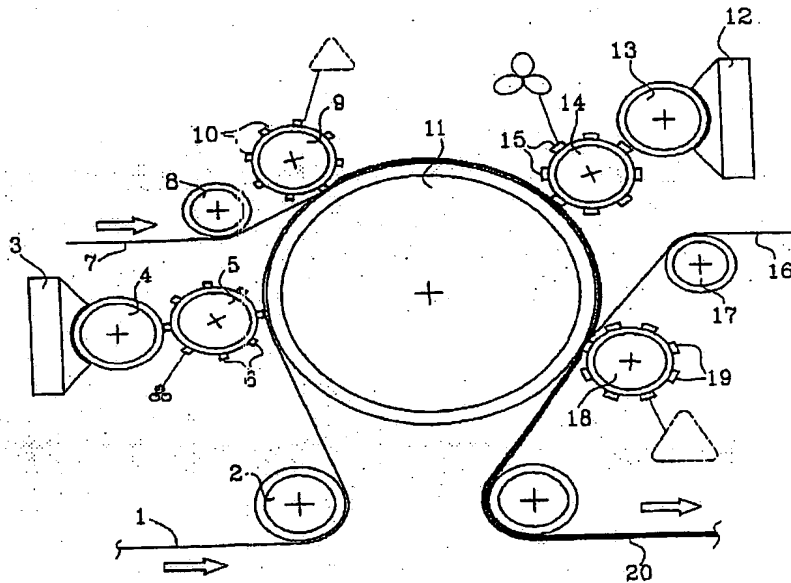
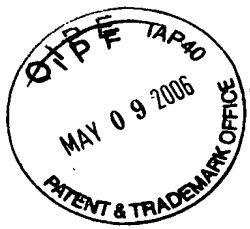
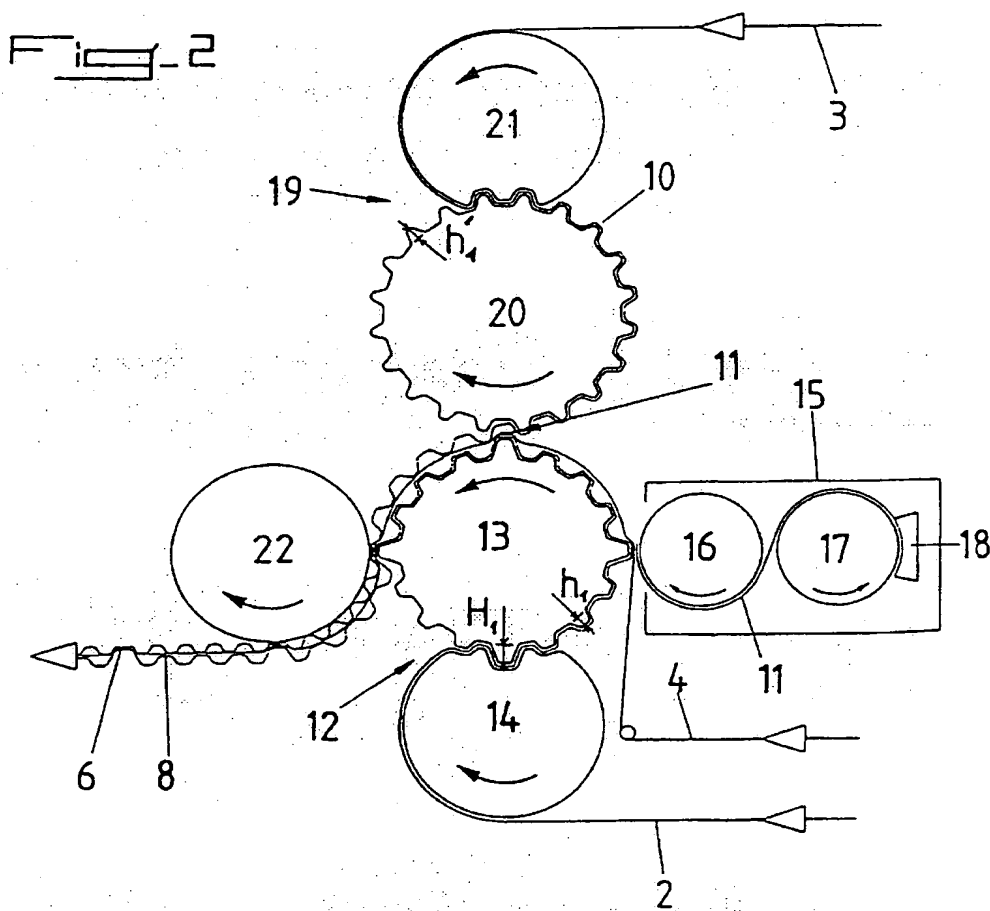


FIG. 1

As seen in Figure 1, a first patterned glue transfer roll 5 applies a first amount of glue to first web 1. First web 1 is then glued to second web 7 at lamination station 9. Thereafter, second patterned glue transfer roll 14 transfers a second amount of glue to the combined web 1,7. The combined web 1,7 is then glued to third web 16 at lamination station 18.

In contrast, as seen in Figure 2 of HOEFT et al., reproduced below, and Figure 1 of THOMAS, reproduced below, each of the first through third webs is simultaneously glued together from glue from a single glue transfer station.



As seen in Figure 2 of the HOEFT reference and as disclosed at column 7, lines 49-59 of this reference, a single glue transfer roll 16 transfers glue to the central ply 4. When sufficient pressure is applied, the glue from transfer station 16 crosses the ply 4 to glue plies 2 and 3 to ply 4.

In addition, column 2, line 43 to column 3, line 3 of HOEFT teach away from using two sequential gluing steps, stating that the prior art method and industrial facility for applying the prior art method are too complex.

Furthermore, as seen from Figure 2 of HOEFT, there is no room to add a second gluing station, especially without substantially modifying the device of HOEFT. Placing a second gluing station adjacent roller 20, as suggested in the Official Action, would not have been obvious because this would merely place glue on web 3 to glue web 3 to web 4. However, glue station 16 is already applying glue to web 4 to glue web 4 to web 3. This redundant gluing scenario would neither be contemplated nor would it meet the recited limitations of claim 1.

As to the disclosure on column 8, lines 8-10 of HOEFT, this disclosure is directed to spraying an adhesive, not applying an adhesive with transfer rolls. Reconfiguring HOEFT to include an additional glue station and an additional joining apparatus would be a substantial modification.

Such substantial modification of HOEFT would render HOEFT unsatisfactory for its intended purpose of using a facility designed for manufacturing a conventional two-ply paper without requiring substantial changes in components or adjustments as set forth on column 8, lines 16-18.

Figure 1 and the disclosure of the THOMAS reference does not overcome the shortcomings set forth above with respect to HOEFT. As seen in Figure 1 of THOMAS, webs 1, 12, and 22 are simultaneously glued together at nip 5.

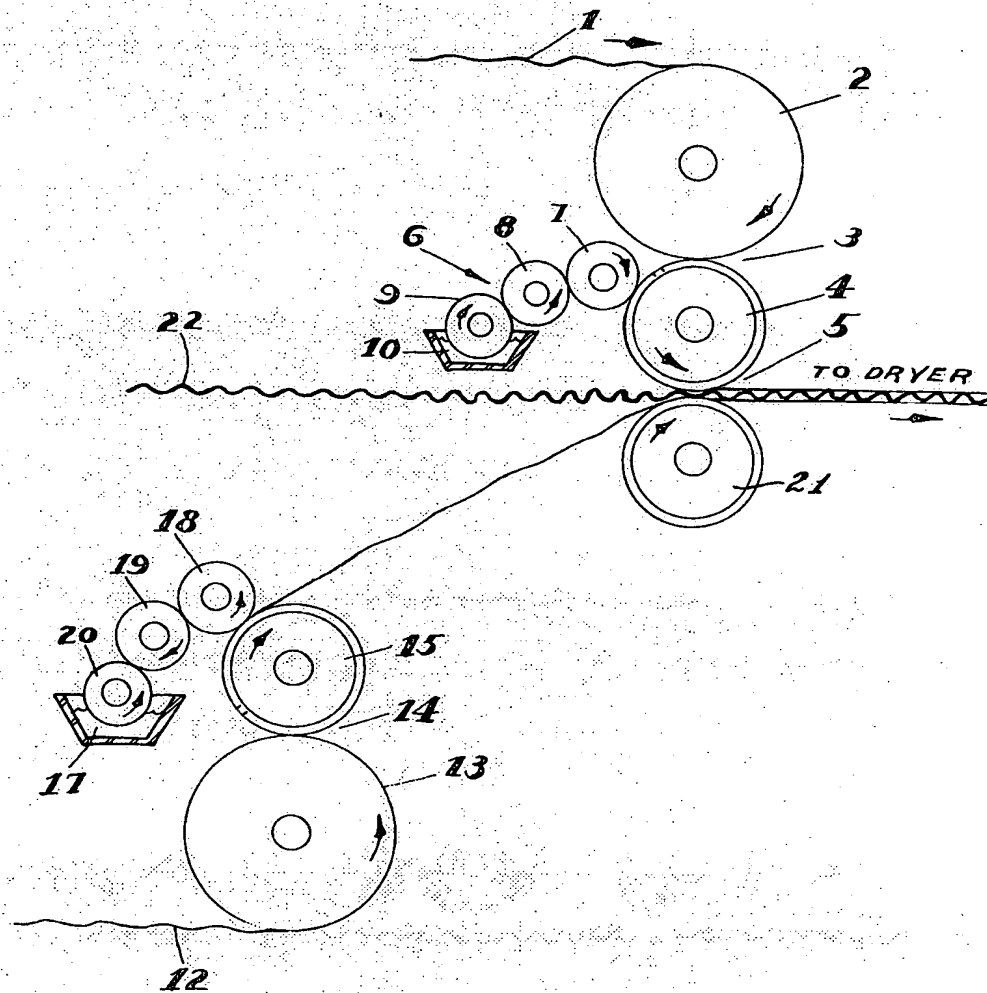


FIG. 1

THOMAS does not disclose first gluing together two webs and then gluing a third web to the first two webs as required to meet the limitations of the present claims.

Neither of these references teach or suggest gluing a first and second web shaped flexible material to each other and then bringing a third web shaped flexible material in contact

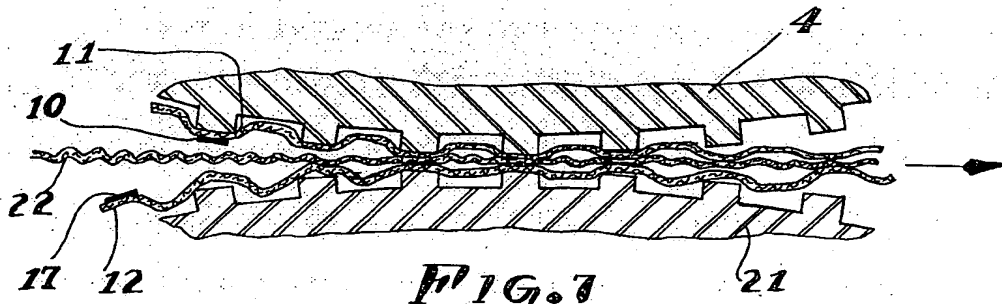
with a glue applied side of the combined first and second web shaped flexible materials as recited.

Moreover, even if the proposed combination were made, the references do not teach all that is recited.

Claim 1 further recites that the glue pattern of the second glue transfer roll is substantially aligned with the glue pattern applied by the first glue transfer roll.

The Official Action indicates that Figure 8 of THOMAS was mistakenly used for this disclosure and that Figure 7 shows this feature.

However, as seen in Figure 7 of THOMAS, reproduced below, this feature is absent from THOMAS.



The glue sites of THOMAS are elements 10 and 17. As seen in Figure 7, glue site 10 is already within roll 4, while glue site 17 is outside roll 4. Thus, the glue patterns are not substantially aligned as recited.

Accordingly, there is neither motivation to combine the references in the manner suggested in the first instance, nor does the proposed combination of references teach each of the

recited limitations of claims 1 and 29. Therefore, claims 1, 2, 4-8 and 29 are believed patentable over the proposed combination of references.

Claim 3 was rejected over HOEFT et al. in view of THOMAS and further in view of KUDO et al. 6,802,932. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

KUDO is only cited for the disclosure of having a lamination roller after an adhesive is applied to a layer. KUDO et al. do not disclose what is recited in claim 1. As set forth above, HOEFT in view of THOMAS does not disclose what is recited in claim 1. Since claim 3 depends from claim 1 and further defines the invention, claim 3 is believed to be patentable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

Claims 9 and 10 were rejected over HOEFT et al. in view of THOMAS and further in view of ANDERSSON et al. U.S. Publication 2003/0215602. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

Effective November 29, 1999, subject matter that is prior art only under 35 USC 102 (e), (f) or (g) is disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention as part of an obviousness rejection under 35 USC 103, if the subject matter and the claimed invention "were at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to assignment to the same person."

ANDERSSON et al. was filed on February 26, 2003 and was published on November 20, 2003. The present application was filed on September 25, 2003. Since the present application was filed before ANDERSSON et al. was published, then ANDERSSON et al. is available, if at all, only under 35 USC 102(e).

The present application is under assignment to SCA Hygiene Products, AB of Goteborg, Sweden. ANDERSSON et al. is also under assignment to SCA Hygiene Products, AB of Goteborg, Sweden. Applicant asserts that at the time the present invention was made, the inventions underlying the ANDERSSON et al. publication and the present invention were commonly owned by SCA Hygiene Products, AB.

In view of the above, the ANDERSSON reference cannot be used as part of an obviousness rejection, and thus claims 9 and 10 are believed patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 11 was rejected over HOEFT et al. in view of THOMAS and further in view of ANDERSSON et al. U.S. Publication 2003/0198788. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

ANDERSSON et al. was filed on February 26, 2003 and was published on October 23, 2003. The present application was filed on September 25, 2003. Since the present application was filed before ANDERSSON et al. was published, then ANDERSSON et al. is available, if at all, only under 35 USC 102(e).

The present application is under assignment to SCA Hygiene Products, AB of Goteborg, Sweden. ANDERSSON et al. is

also under assignment to SCA Hygiene Products, AB of Goteborg, Sweden. Applicant asserts that at the time the present invention was made, the inventions underlying the ANDERSSON et al. publication and the present invention were commonly owned by SCA Hygiene Products, AB.

In view of the above, the ANDERSSON reference cannot be used as part of an obviousness rejection, and thus claim 11 is believed patentable over the cited prior art.

Claim 12 was rejected over HOEFT et al. in view of THOMAS and further in view of SCHULZ 4,325,768.

SCHULZ is only cited for the disclosure of embossing a multi-layer laminate after lamination of the webs. SCHULZ does not disclose what is recited in claim 1. As set forth above, HOEFT et al. in view of THOMAS does not disclose what is recited in claim 1. Since claim 12 depends from claim 1 and further defines the invention, claim 12 is believed patentable at least for depending from an allowable independent claim.

Claims 1, 28 and 29 were rejected over MCCORMACK et al. 5,882,769 in view of THOMAS. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

The proposed combination of references neither disclose that for which they are offered nor disclose that which is recited.

Figure 5 of MCCORMACK shows bond sites that are aligned. However, the process of Figure 4, which uses a single

nip to form the bond (see column 8, lines 18-38), forms the product of Figure 5. See also column 8, lines 39-52. The two-step process of figure 7 of MCCORMACK produces the product seen in Figure 6, wherein the bonds 16 and 19 are not aligned. See column 3, lines 23-29.

Accordingly, MCCORMACK discloses two different processes. The first process has one nip and produces aligned bonds. The second process is a sequential process that produces off-set bonds. MCCORMACK does not disclose a glue pattern from a first glue transfer roll is substantially aligned with a glue pattern from a second glue transfer roll as recited.

Moreover, MCCORMACK does not contemplate the use of patterned glue transfer rolls.

As set forth above, THOMAS neither discloses first gluing together two webs and then gluing a third web to the first two webs, nor that the glue patterns are substantially aligned.

The above noted features are missing from each of the references are absent from the combination, and thus would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 1, 3-10, 28 and 29 were rejected as being obvious over ANDERSSON et al. U.S. Publication 2003/0215602. That rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth above, subject matter that is prior art only under 35 USC 102 (e), (f) or (g) is disqualified as prior art against the claimed invention as part of an obviousness

rejection under 35 USC 103, if the subject matter and the claimed invention "were at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to assignment to the same person."

As pointed out above, ANDERSSON et al. was filed on February 26, 2003 and was published on November 20, 2003. The present application was filed on September 25, 2003. Since the present application was filed before ANDERSSON et al. was published, then ANDERSSON et al. is available, if at all, only under 35 USC 102(e).

As also pointed out above, the present application is under assignment to SCA Hygiene Products, AB of Goteborg, Sweden. ANDERSSON et al. is also under assignment to SCA Hygiene Products, AB of Goteborg, Sweden. Applicant asserts that at the time the present invention was made, the inventions underlying the ANDERSSON et al. publication and the present invention were commonly owned by SCA Hygiene Products, AB.

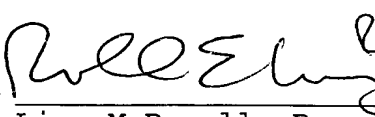
Since the ANDERSSON reference cannot be used as part of an obviousness rejection, claims 1, 3-10, 28 and 29 are believed patentable over the cited prior art.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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